

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

4 Sabat 7

1. A radially expansible luminal prosthesis comprising:  
2 a cylindrical frame having a distal end, a proximal end, and an outer  
3 surface for insertion into a body lumen, wherein said frame comprises a radiopaque  
4 material which varies in thickness over an axial length of the cylindrical frame so that the  
5 radiopacity of the frame varies correspondingly.

2. A radially expansible luminal prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein the  
2 cylindrical frame comprises stainless steel and a radiopaque material is coated over the  
3 stainless steel.

3. A radially expansible luminal prosthesis as in claim 2, wherein the  
2 radiopaque material is selected from the group consisting of gold, platinum,  
3 platinum/iridium, tungsten, and tantalum.

4. A radially expansible luminal prosthesis as in any of claims 1 to 3,  
2 wherein the radiopaque material is thicker near the ends of the cylindrical frame than over  
3 the midsection.

5. An improved radially expansible luminal prosthesis of the type  
2 comprising a cylindrical frame having a distal end, a proximal end, and a midsection  
3 therebetween, wherein the cylindrical frame is modified to be radiopaque at each end but  
4 to remain sufficiently radiolucent over the midsection to permit fluoroscopic viewing of a  
5 blood vessel lumen in which the prosthesis is implanted.

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